AINC
STARTLING
NO 13
10¢
TERROR
TALES
WHERE DID IT COME FROM, THIS LOATHSOME VISITANT FROM ANOTHER WORLD? WHAT WAS ITS PURPOSE IN COMING? DID THIS SHAGGY, DRIVELING ENTITY, WITH ALMOST SUPER-NATURAL POWERS, HARBOR WITHIN ITS UNFATHOMED MIND EVIL INTENTIONS? OR WAS IT VEXED AND DRIVEN BY A TWISTED AND PASSIONATE LOVE? IN THE FOLLOWING TALE, THE TRUTH OF THIS MATTER IS PRESENTED; FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVE THE COURAGE TO KNOW THE TRUTH!
... Love FROM A GORGON!

Supermouse
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Reducing Specialist Says: LOSE WEIGHT Where It Shows Most REDUCE MOST ANY PART OF THE BODY WITH

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LOSE WEIGHT OR NO CHARGE

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Louis Frost 102

Love from a GORGON

by Jay Disbrow

THIS GHASTLY AFFAIR HAD IT'S BEGINNING, ONE SULTRY HOT NIGHT IN MID-AUGUST, WHEN I, DOCTOR GORDON BRANDT, RECEIVED AN EMERGENCY CALL FROM MY OLD FRIEND, PROFESSOR UJYRA VANGOTH.

AT THE APPOINTED TIME, I ARRIVED AT VANGOTH'S RAMBLING OLD MANSION ON THE OUT-SKIRTS OF STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT.

I WAS ADMITTED BY THE BUTLER.

A MOMENT LATER, PROFESSOR VANGOTH ENTERED THE SPACIOUS LIVING ROOM, ACCOMPANIED BY HIS HUGE GREAT DANE.

I'M SORRY I CAN NOT GREET YOU UNDER MORE PLEASANT CIRCUMSTANCES, GORDON, BUT I NEED YOUR ADVICE!

WHAT'S WRONG, UJYRA? YOU SOUNDED DESPERATE OVER THE TELEPHONE!

I AM DESPERATE, GORDON! UNLESS THIS AWFUL TORMENT CEASES, I FEAR I SHALL GO MAD!---LISTEN: IN EXACTLY THREE AND A HALF MINUTES, SOMEONE, OR ***SOMETHING*** WILL ENTER THIS HOUSE!

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, UJYRA? WHY ARE YOU BEING SO MYSTERIOUS --- SO MELODRAMATIC?

BELIEVE ME GORDON, I'M NOT EXAGGERATING THE GRAVITY OF THIS SITUATION! --- BUT HERE IS MY STUDY, IN A FEW MOMENTS YOU SHALL BE A WITNESS TO THIS AWFUL VISITATION!

BUT WHAT IS IT, A MAN, A WOMAN, AN ANIMAL OF SOME KIND?

THE OLD PROFESSOR TOOK A FIRM GRIP ON THE COLLAR OF HIS DOG, AS HE DREW ME BEHIND THE CONCEALMENT OF A HUGE PORTIERE.

FROM HERE WE HAVE AN EXCELLENT VIEW OF THE ENTIRE ROOM! THE DRAPE IS THIN, AND WE CAN SEE THROUGH IT, BUT WE CAN NOT BE SEEN IN THE SHADOWS OF THIS ALCOVE! NOW WATCH THAT OPEN WINDOW CLOSELY; IN EXACTLY 45 SECONDS YOU'LL SEE IT------

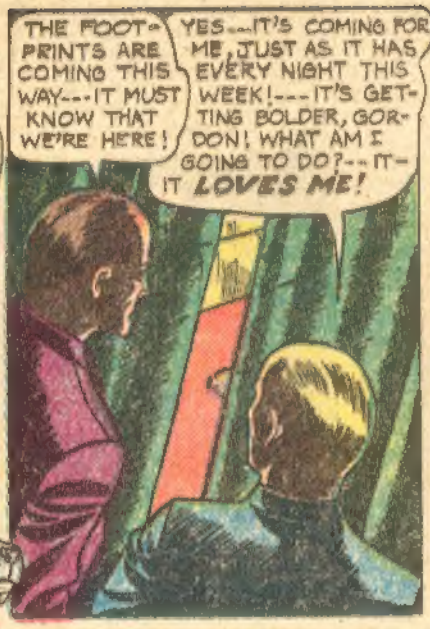
THE SECONDS CRAWLED SLOWLY BY AS I KEPT MY EYES FIXED ON THE EAST WINDOW, AND THEN, PRECISELY ON THE STROKE OF ELEVEN, THE SASH BEGAN TO RATTLE, AND THE CURTAIN BLEW INWARD, AS THOUGH WAFTED BY A SUDDEN GUST OF WIND, BUT **THERE WAS NO WIND!**

I STARED INCREDULOUSLY, AS I BEHELD HUGE IMPRESSIONS THE SIZE AND SHAPE OF HUMAN FEET, TAKING FORM IN THE SOFT PILE OF THE THICK RUG. A DARK OOZING SUBSTANCE, FROM AN UNSEEN SOURCE WAS DRIPPING UPON THE FLOOR! SOME INVISIBLE CREATURE WAS SLOWLY SHUFFLING ACROSS THE ROOM.

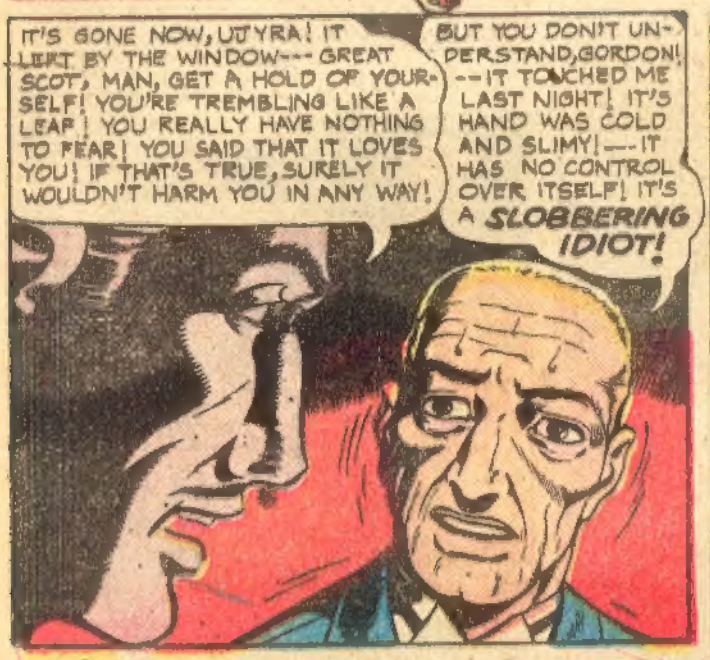
THE LARGE SIAMESE CAT WHICH HAD BEEN SLEEPING ON THE HEARTH, AWOKE SUDDENLY AND BEGAN TO RUB IT'S BODY AGAINST AN UNSEEN OBJECT.

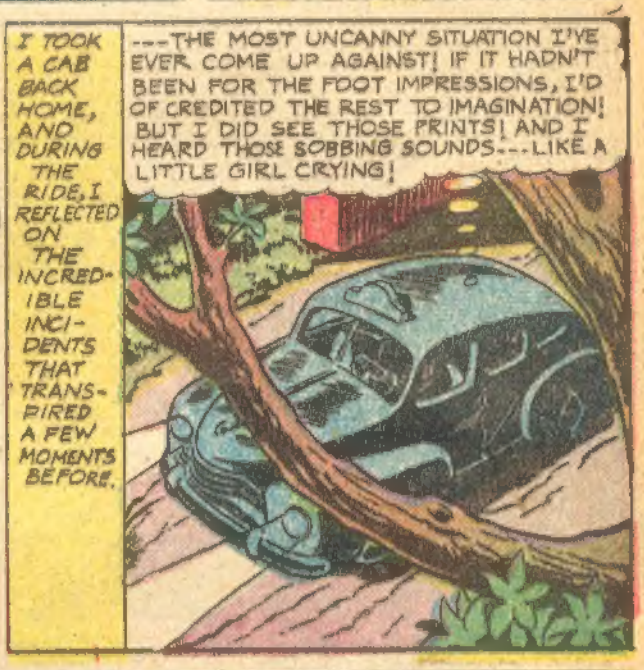
YOU SEE GORDON, THE CAT KNOWS THE CREATURE! HE'S PURRING! AND LOOK! --- THE FUR ON HIS BACK IS FLATTENING! SOMETHING IS PETTING HIM!!

THE FOOT-FALLS ARE TURNING, THE CAT IS FOLLOWING THEM!---GOOD HEAVENS, UJYRA, WHAT IS THAT THING? IS IT SUBSTANCE, FLESH AND BLOOD, OR A HALLUCINATION WE'RE SUFFERING?
WHAT EVER IT IS, IT POSSESSES SUPERNORMAL POWERS!--IT'S BEEN COMING HERE EVERY NIGHT FOR A WEEK! THE CAT IS FOND OF IT, BUT THE DOG HATES IT! I CAN HARDLY CONTROL HIM!
GRRF!


THE FOOT-PRINTS ARE COMING THIS WAY---IT MUST KNOW THAT WE'RE HERE!
YES---IT'S COMING FOR ME, JUST AS IT HAS EVERY NIGHT THIS WEEK!---IT'S GETTING BOLDER, GORDON! WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?--IT--IT LOVES ME!

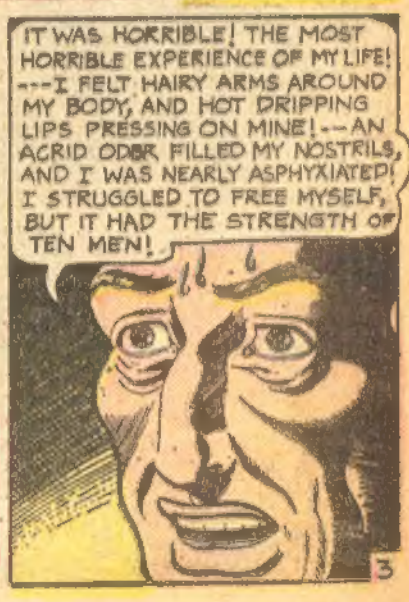
GATHERING ALL MY COURAGE, I STEPPED OUT FROM BEHIND THE DRAPE AND SHOUTED--
LISTEN, WHAT EVER YOU ARE, WE KNOW THAT YOU'RE HERE, AND WE DON'T WAN'T YOU! LEAVE THIS HOUSE! GO!
BA-HAH-HAH-(SOB) BAH-HA-


IT'S GONE NOW, UJYRA! IT LEFT BY THE WINDOW--- GREAT SCOT, MAN, GET A HOLD OF YOURSELF! YOU'RE TREMBLING LIKE A LEAF! YOU REALLY HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR! YOU SAID THAT IT LOVES YOU! IF THAT'S TRUE, SURELY IT WOULDN'T HARM YOU IN ANY WAY!
BUT YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, GORDON! --IT TOUCHED ME LAST NIGHT! IT'S HAND WAS COLD AND SLIMY!---IT HAS NO CONTROL OVER ITSELF! IT'S A SLOBBERING IDIOT!


I TOOK A CAB BACK HOME, AND DURING THE RIDE, I REFLECTED ON THE INCREDIBLE INCIDENTS THAT TRANSPIRED A FEW MOMENTS BEFORE.
---THE MOST UNCANNY SITUATION I'VE EVER COME UP AGAINST! IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR THE FOOT IMPRESSIONS, I'D OF CREDITED THE REST TO IMAGINATION! BUT I DID SEE THOSE PRINTS! AND I HEARD THOSE SOBBING SOUNDS---LIKE A LITTLE GIRL CRYING!

THE FOLLOWING NIGHT, I RECEIVED ANOTHER CALL FROM PROFESSOR VANGOTH.
G-GORDON---YOU'VE GOT TO COME HERE, IMMEDIATELY!---THE THING IS BACK! IT-IT KISSED ME!

WHEN I ARRIVED AT HIS HOME, HE WAS TREMBLING VIOLENTLY. HIS NERVES WERE COMPLETELY SHATTERED.
I CAN'T STAND IT! I CAN'T STAND ANY MORE! I'LL GO OUT OF MY MIND IF THIS CONTINUES! GORDON YOU'VE GOT TO HELP ME, YOU'VE GOT TO!
NOW CALM DOWN UJYRA, AND TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED!


IT WAS HORRIBLE! THE MOST HORRIBLE EXPERIENCE OF MY LIFE! ---I FELT HAIRY ARMS AROUND MY BODY, AND HOT DRIPPING LIPS PRESSING ON MINE!--AN ACRID ODOR FILLED MY NOSTRILS, AND I WAS NEARLY ASPHYXIATED! I STRUGGLED TO FREE MYSELF, BUT IT HAD THE STRENGTH OF TEN MEN!

UJYRA, I WISH I KNEW WHAT TO TELL YOU, BUT I'M BAFFLED! ---IF ONLY YOU COULD SEE THIS THING, TALK TO IT, AND REASON WITH IT--
IT'S NO USE; YOU CAN'T REASON WITH A BRAINLESS ENTITY, THAT'S GUIDED ONLY BY INSTINCT AND PASSION!------ EVERY ONE THINKS I'M MAD! EVEN CHARLES, MY BUTLER AVOIDS ME! HE WONT STAY IN THE SAME ROOM WITH ME!
THE FOLLOWING NIGHT, WHEN UJYRA VANGOTH AND HIS DOG WERE ALONE IN HIS STUDY----
IT'S BACK---IT'S BACK AGAIN! BUT I'M NOT AFRAID ANY LONGER! I KNOW WHAT TO DO NOW!
HEAR ME NOW, YOU CREATURE OF DARKNESS! WHAT EVER YOU ARE, WHERE EVER YOU ARE, I COMMAND YOU, BY EVERYTHING THAT IS GOOD, AND JUST, AND DECENT, TO MAKE YOURSELF VISIBLE! REVEAL YOURSELF TO ME, NOW!
SLOWLY AT FIRST, A DIM, OBSCURE OBJECT APPEARED, AND GRADUALLY TOOK FORM, UNTIL IT RESOLVED ITSELF INTO A VISIBLE FIGURE. VANGOTH STAGGERED BACK AS ONE STRUCK FORCIBLY. A QUALM OF NAUSEA SWEPPED OVER HIM, AND HIS EYES BULGED IN INCREDULITY, AS HE BEHELD THE UNBELIEVABLY GROTESQUE GORGON WHICH APPROACHED HIM WITH OPEN ARMS.
I HEAR AND OBEY, BELOVED!
NO-NO, IT ISN'T POSSIBLE! --- STAY AWAY FROM ME!
THE HUGE CANINE LEAPED AT THE FRIGHTFUL CREATURE, BUT SHE SEIZED THE ANGRY DOG IN TWO POWERFUL ARMS.
GET IT, REX! KILL IT--- KILL IT!!
AGRAF
WITH A STRENGTH THAT BELIED ITS APPEARANCE, THE HAIRY MONSTROSITY TWISTED THE GREAT DANE, UNTIL ITS VERTEBRAE PARTED WITH A SICKENING SNAP.
BROW
CRACK!
4

YOU-YOU KILLED HIM! YOU KILLED MY DOG!--- YOU VILE, DISGUSTING THING! YOU'VE DESTROYED MY ONLY COMPANION!
FORGIVE ME, BELOVED, I MEANT THE BEAST NO HARM, BUT IT ATTACKED ME, AND I HAD TO DEFEND MYSELF!
WHAT ARE YOU?--WHERE DID YOU COME FROM? WHY ARE YOU HERE TO TORMENT ME?
MY NAME IS NOGRAMOG, AND I HAVE TRAVERSED MILLIONS OF MILES, AND AEONS OF TIME TO FIND YOU!---I AM NOT THE BRAINLESS CREATURE YOU THINK I AM: INDEED, I HAVE AN INTELLIGENCE THAT SURPASSES YOUR OWN.--TO YOU I AM UGLY, BUT TO THE BEINGS OF MY OWN WORLD, I WAS CONSIDERED BEAUTIFUL!
THE WORLD FROM WHICH I CAME IS CALLED TYRANNIA, A PLANET WHICH EXISTS IN AN OTHER TIME DIMENSION. MY WORLD IS INCREDIBLY OLD, AND I HAVE SPRUNG FROM A RACE OF BEINGS THAT TRACES ITS LINEAGE BACK TO MILLIONS OF YEARS.---WE WERE OF A SUPERIOR INTELLECT; WE HAD POWERS WHICH EARTH MEN HAVE LONGED FOR SINCE THE BEGINING OF TIME! BUT OUR RACE BEGAN TO DIE OUT, AND PRESENTLY, I WAS THE ONLY SURVIVOR OF A ONCE MIGHTY PEOPLE!
"FOR A HUNDRED YEARS, I LIVED IN BITTER LONELINESS, AND THEN I CONCEIVED A WAY TO CROSS THE VOIDS OF TIME AND SPACE. USING A TELEPORTATION MECHANISM, I BROKE DOWN THE ATOMS OF MY BODY INTO THEIR COMPONENT PARTS, AND IN THE FORM OF PURE ENERGY, I SPED ACROSS THE VISTAS OF INFINITY."
"AT LAST I ARRIVED ON EARTH, AND REASSEMBLED MYSELF. THEN, USING MY POWERS TO CLOUD MENS MINDS SO THEY COULDN'T SEE ME, I WENT AMONG THE HIGHWAYS AND BYWAYS OF THE GLOBE, SEEKING A FIT MAN WITH WHICH TO MATE, BUT EVERY WHERE I WENT, I FOUND IGNORANCE, CUPIDITY, AND MALICE. NOWHERE COULD I FIND ONE WITH ENOUGH GOODNESS AND INTELLIGENCE TO MERIT MY AFFECTIONS."
5

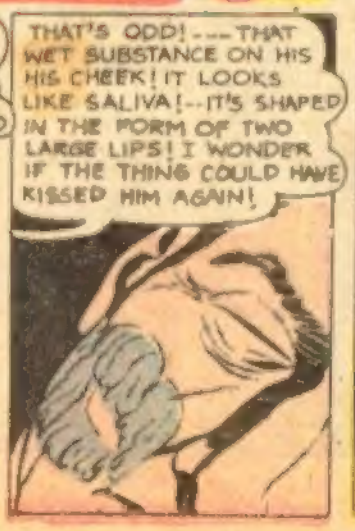
AND THEN I DISCOVERED YOU; AND AS I OBSERVED YOUR BEHAVIOR, AND STUDIED YOUR CHARACTER, I KNEW THAT YOU WERE THE ONE FOR ME!---YOU HAVE AN INTELLIGENCE FAR ABOVE AVERAGE, AND A PHILOSOPHICAL NATURE THAT IS AKIN TO MY OWN! YOU WILL RETURN TO TYRANNIA WITH ME, AND PROPAGATE OUR ONCE MAGNIFICENT RACE!
Y-YOU'RE MAD! --I COULD NEVER BE MATED TO YOU! YOU'RE UGLY, AND DETESTABLE! --- YOU HAVE NO SELF CONTROL!

MY ORAL ORGANS ARE CONSTRUCTED DIFFERENTLY THAN YOURS. TO DRIVEL IS A NATURAL STATE WITH ME; YOU MUST NOT DESPISE ME FOR THAT, BELOVED, FOR IN MANY OTHER WAYS, I AM JUST AS HUMAN AS YOU ARE! --BUT COME NOW, A KISS BEFORE WE LEAVE!
NO-NO-DON'T TOUCH ME! STAY AWAY FROM ME! I WON'T GO WITH YOU!

PLEASE DO NOT STRUGGLE, BELOVED. I DON'T WANT TO HARM YOU, BUT I SHALL NOT BE DENIED!
NO, LEAVE ME ALONE! I CAN'T STAND IT! AAAGH!

LATE THAT NIGHT, I WAS AWAKENED BY THE RINGING OF THE TELEPHONE----
THIS IS CHARLES, THE BUTLER, DR. BRANDT. FORGIVE ME FOR DISTURBING YOU, SIR, BUT COULD YOU COME OVER HERE IMMEDIATELY? SOMETHING DREADFUL HAS HAPPENED --- IT'S THE PROFESSOR---
OF COURSE, CHARLES, I'LL BE RIGHT OVER!

LATER--
AND THAT'S THE WAY I FOUND HIM, SIR! THE DOCTOR SAID HE SUCCUMBED TO A HEART ATTACK!---THE DOG'S BACK WAS BROKEN, BUT HOW THAT HAPPENED IS UNKNOWN!


THAT'S ODD!---THAT WET SUBSTANCE ON HIS HIS CHEEK! IT LOOKS LIKE SALIVA!--IT'S SHAPED IN THE FORM OF TWO LARGE LIPS! I WONDER IF THE THING COULD HAVE KISSED HIM AGAIN!

WHAT EVER HAPPENED, SIR, HE IS AT PEACE NOW!
BUT I WONDER IF HE IS? --HE SAID THAT THIS CREATURE HAD SUPER-NORMAL POWERS; IF THAT IS TRUE, PERHAPS HIS SPIRIT IS EVEN NOW WITH HER, SOMEPLACE OUT THERE---I WONDER!
The End
FD.

BURNING SANDS OF DEATH

TEACHING Ancient History at the State University was beginning to get on my nerves I just couldn't stand the confinement of those four walls within the sphere of the campus. Not after having spent three years with the World-Wide Espionage Group under General Franklyn W. Davis. I was again becoming the typical school teacher. With my small, sandy moustache, horned rim eyeglasses, thin built, and receding blonde wavy hair, my students always pleasantly greeted me with, "Good afternoon, Dr. Howards." They and my colleagues should have known that I was X-18 in the last war taking on any character from an aged Frenchman to a German military officer. Officially, I was supposed to have been stationed in the archive department at Washington, doing research work on maps.

As I was about to leave my class room, a student messenger stopped me, "Excuse me, Dr. Howards, but Dean Littchenfield would like to see you for a moment in his office." I turned down the corridor and headed for room 121. Percival Littchenfield had originally been head of the English Department at the University before he had been made Dean of Men. He was a small middle-aged man, with stooping shoulders, thick eyeglasses, and completely bald. He was in his office when I opened the door. "Good afternoon, Howards", he said, in a familiarity I had never seen before. "My car is outside, will you be so kind as to go home with me at once."

"I have a meeting with Dr. Blenders on the new term schedule", I replied.

"My office just called it off", was all he said.

We drove to his home on the outskirts of the city. Not a word was said during the trip. We entered his home and he opened a small door which lead to the garage. "Someone inside a truck waiting to see you," was all he enlightened me about. I entered the garage, saw the truck, and spotted the driver. It was my old war time boss, General Davis! "Hello, Herman", was his greeting. "Now don't show amazement. Just climb up on the driver's seat and listen to me. You're back in service again."

General Davis was about 6 feet in height, of stocky build, with black hair that was graying around the edges, and deep set brown eyes. "You're X-18 again on a tough assignment. For the last year, men have been vanishing from cities along the eastern coast. Ordinarily the police would say they go into the forgotten men who have changed their names for a variety of reasons. But all these men have one thing in common. They have had mining and engineering experience. Last month, a British Patrol Vessel in the Red Sea, stopped a smuggler's boat. Five men from New York City were aboard that boat concealed below the deck. They had no recollection of who they were or where they were going. Medical examination showed they were suffering from artificial amnesia induced by the drug Stratfine. One man recovered sufficiently to tell us he had been held by Tribesmen of the Medussis in the Sahara Desert in the stronghold of Ar-Lam-Bog. You and I are going to the Desert to find out what is behind these peculiar disappearances."

Give the General credit. He certainly knew how to organize things. The newspapers featured the fact that I was going on a trip sponsored by the State University to study life among the Medussis. The General turned up with a long beard and his name was "Professor Andronovitch Logonosky." We flew aboard a special plane and three days later found ourselves at Fort Duplois, a French stronghold in the Desert. Major Jacque Peroir was our host. He was a middle aged typical career army officer with a real devotion to duty. He wore a close clipped beard. At the Fort we found an Englishman, Georges Monterey in a wheelchair. He was there for his health, and since he had money to spend, he was taking life easy.

Our equipment consisted of a half-tractor, two light supply cars, ten armed guards and the necessary number of porters and drivers. Mohammed Ali was an ageless thin man who could have been thirty or fifty. "I shall take good care of this car", he assured me. "It was used by the members of the Ciron-Blanc expedition. Alas they were all wiped out." I wondered if that last crack was supposed to give me a shudder. It failed to do so.

We picked the wrong time to travel on the desert. The blazing sun hit the sand and it reflected into your eyes. The General and I both wore our special eyeglasses. We sat together in our car and talked. "The oasis of Nu-La-Art" he said, "will be our camping ground for the first night."

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Exhausted, I will admit I slept like a baby. But my sensitive ears heard noises. I awoke, reached for my revolver, and walked towards the half-tractor. In the dim light of a quarter moon I saw a man dash for the shelter of nearby palm and date trees. I fired twice. General Davis was at my side with a gun in his hand. "What's wrong?", he demanded.

"Someone fooling with the half-tractor," I answered. "Get a flashlight and we can check."

With a powerful beam of light focused on the car, we noticed a small trickle of gasoline on the sand. "The petrol tank", remarked the General. "We would be stalled in the desert." I plugged the leak which I located while Davis went looking around for possible clues. Half an hour later, he returned with a puzzled look on his face. "Our uninvited visitor was a white man. He wore riding boots and toes inward from his walk. Either he came here in a jeep or on a camel. We'll post guard and get some sleep."

In the morning we set out for our next position. About noon we reached the remains of the famous Temple of Ramses II. "To think that ancient Egyptian civilization once reached up here", I sighed, "and today it's nothing more than sand." The General laughed. "The scholar is still within you. Let's investigate." Mohammed Ali volunteered to show us through the temple. We mounted the stone steps that had withstood centuries. Then we walked through a long corridor. Ali turned around to be certain not a soul was in sight. "If you follow me, I shall show you a secret treasure room." That was enough to tempt any one. He pushed a secret knob and a side of the wall moved. We both entered—and the door shut with Ali outside. I looked at the General and he looked at me. What fools we had been to walk into this trap. It was a huge room and our fate would be dry bones if they ever located us. Then I smiled. "Get the cartridges out of your belt and we can line the side of the stone and blow it open." Some thirty minutes later we had emptied the contents of about two dozen bullets along the crack between the wall and the movable stone. I took a look at my shoes and the shoelace became a fuse. The General applied his cigarette. Later we just prayed and then came a bang. The secret stone door fell forward and we were free.

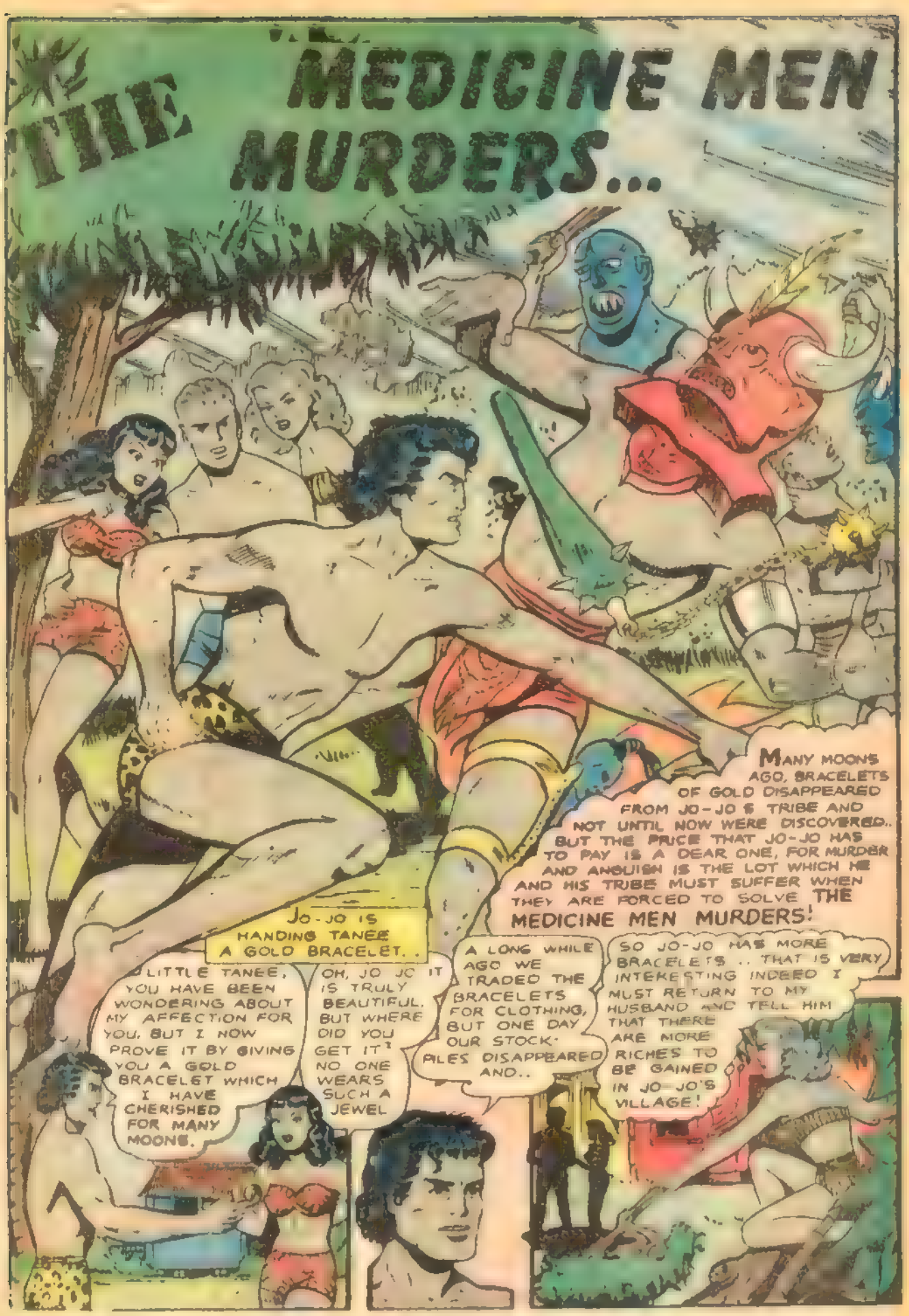
Ali rushed up the steps to be greeted by us and two businesslike guns. "Talk quick", ordered the general "or we shall wrap you in the skin of a pig." Ali knew it would be his end unless he explained so he told us all he knew. "By the Beard of the Prophet, I swear my words are true. White men are drugged in your country. They are taken on freighters to an island near the Red Sea. Then they are brought up the coast in small sailing vessels. Their skins are dyed brown and they are brought to Ar-Lam-Bog. They work in a mine and bring forth something that glows in the dark." That could only mean one thing. Radio active material was being taken beneath the ground of the ancient city!!

We were so busy paying attention to Ali that neither of us noticed a man with a sub machine gun in his hand. There in front of us was Georges Monterey, standing erect and looking as though he would kill us in a minute. "Drop those guns," he ordered. We had no choice. "Bind their hands", he said to Ali and that took place in a few minutes. He marched us to the side of the temple. "Dig a hole and give them the death of Suma-Li."

The most dreadful punishment in the Sahara was the Suma-Li. The victim was placed in a hole in the ground, his face smeared with honey, and the ants did the rest of the job. Monterey gave Ali a gun. "I will return to the Fort and say the men wandered off into the desert and were probably killed by unfriendly tribesmen."

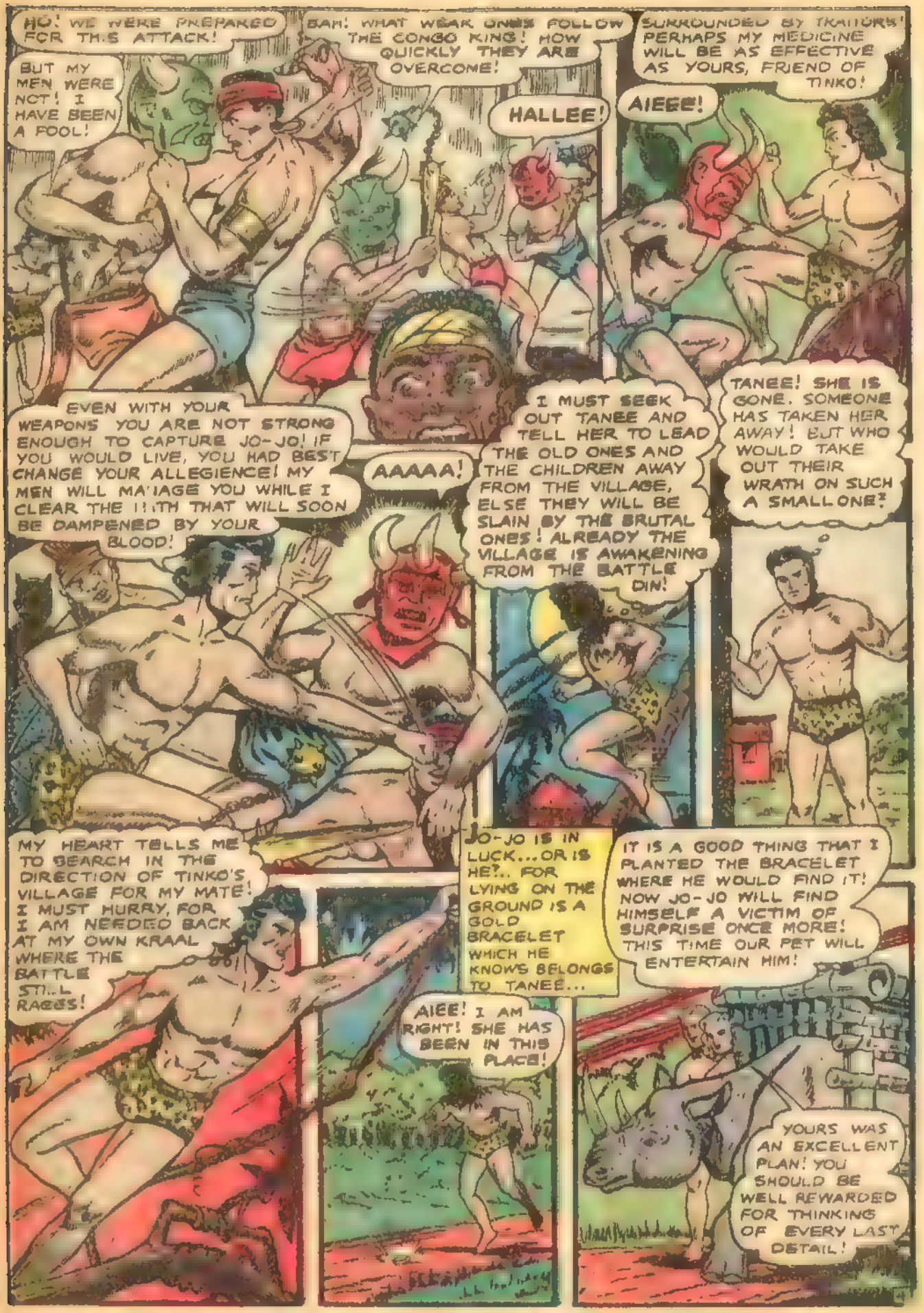
Ali puffed on a cigaretet as a thin stream of tiny insects crawled toward us. I prayed for a swift death and as they came closer, I became so frightened that I shouted, "Go Back". My voice was shrill and high. The impossible happened. The ants turned around. Ali turned white. "It is the will of Allah", he moaned. "He wishes you to live." Ali dug us out of the sand and massaged our limbs. He gave the general his gun. "I shall procure camels and we will return to the fort."

Monterey was arrested and the gang in the United States was also caught. The French bombed the stronghold of Ar-Lam-Bog and took possession of the uranium deposits there. About the ants? It took three scientists to figure out what had happened. Once I wanted to be a singer. I could hit high F above high C on the scale. And my vibrations affected their nervous systems and made them turn around and flee for their lives. The men who had been taken as slaves were given special medical treatment. Then they went back to normal life.


THE MEDICINE MEN MURDERS...
MANY MOONS AGO, BRACELETS OF GOLD DISAPPEARED FROM JO-JO'S TRIBE AND NOT UNTIL NOW WERE DISCOVERED.. BUT THE PRICE THAT JO-JO HAS TO PAY IS A DEAR ONE, FOR MURDER AND ANGUISH IS THE LOT WHICH HE AND HIS TRIBE MUST SUFFER WHEN THEY ARE FORCED TO SOLVE THE MEDICINE MEN MURDERS!
JO-JO IS HANDING TANEE A GOLD BRACELET..
LITTLE TANEE, YOU HAVE BEEN WONDERING ABOUT MY AFFECTION FOR YOU. BUT I NOW PROVE IT BY GIVING YOU A GOLD BRACELET WHICH I HAVE CHERISHED FOR MANY MOONS.
OH, JO JO IT IS TRULY BEAUTIFUL. BUT WHERE DID YOU GET IT? NO ONE WEARS SUCH A JEWEL
A LONG WHILE AGO WE TRADED THE BRACELETS FOR CLOTHING, BUT ONE DAY OUR STOCK-PILES DISAPPEARED AND..
SO JO-JO HAS MORE BRACELETS .. THAT IS VERY INTERESTING INDEED I MUST RETURN TO MY HUSBAND AND TELL HIM THAT THERE ARE MORE RICHES TO BE GAINED IN JO-JO'S VILLAGE!

AH, THERE YOU ARE, MY MATE... DO YOU NOT THINK I AM GETTING HANDSOMER EVERY DAY? AND THESE GOLD BRACELETS ENHANCE ME EVEN MORE.
YES, YOU ARE A HANDSOME SIGHT, MY HUSBAND, BUT PUT THE MIRROR DOWN. I HAVE NEWS THAT WILL INTEREST YOU
THERE ARE MANY MORE BRACELETS SUCH AS THE ONES THAT WERE IN JO-JO'S KRAAL... BUT IT WOULD NOT BE WISE FOR US TO OBTAIN THEM BY RAIDING THE VILLAGE.
REMEMBER, TOO, JO-JO IS RESPECTED AND FEARED IN THE JUNGLE. AND COULD CAUSE US GREAT HARM.
THAT'S JUST THE POINT! HE COULD CAUSE US BOTH GREAT HARM! HE HAS NOT YET SOLVED THE BRACELET'S MYSTERY. BUT SHOULD HE FIND THEM ON YOU... WE WOULD NOT FARE GOOD!
YOU ARE TRULY A NOBLE AND HANDSOME KING, AND OUR TRIBE HAS GREAT NUMBERS, YET JO-JO IS SO WITTY. HE COULD CONCEIVABLY CONQUER US... HE MIGHT ALSO GO AS FAR AS TO MAR YOUR BEAUTY.
I COULD NOT STAND THAT... THEY SAY THAT JO-JO IS HANDSOME, TOO, AND PERHAPS HIS JEALOUSY OF TINKO WOULD CAUSE HIM TO DO ANYTHING PERHAPS YOU ARE RIGHT, SHIKA. WE SHOULD DO EVERYTHING IN OUR POWER TO STOP HIM!
WHAT TALK IS THIS? MAR ME?
YES, WE WILL DO IT! WE WILL RAID JO-JO'S VILLAGE... BUT FIRST I MUST FORM A BATTLE PLAN!
AH! HOW BRAVE YOU ARE, TINKO!
DO NOT WORRY, MY DARLING... I ALREADY HAVE A PLAN. YOU WILL FIRST DECLARE WAR ON JO-JO AND LEAVE THE REST TO ME. I MUST DO A LITTLE MORE SPYING BEFORE WE ANNIHILATE HIS PEOPLE! THAT WAY WE CAN GET THE REST OF THEIR TREASURES!
LATER, JO-JO HEARS THE STRANGE MUMBLINGS OF A DISTANT JUNGLE DRUM...
IS THAT NOT THE SOUND OF DRUMS, SON? BUT WHO? WHY?
HARK! THEY SPEAK, TELLING US A MESSAGE OF EVIL! TINKO'S TRIBE... WAR! THEY DECLARE WAR!

LET THE WORDS OF CONGO KING BE HEARD TO EVERY TRIBE IN THE JUNGLE! WE WILL HAVE NO WAR FOR IT IS AN EVIL ACT AND SORROW IS ITS BROTHER. TELL EACH TRIBE TO SEND FORTH THEIR VOODOO DOCTORS AND WE WILL COUNCIL! GO TO ALL... BUT NOT TO THE AMBITIOUS TRIBE OF TINKO!
I SHALL EXPECT YOU AT NIGHTFALL, BROTHER, AND FORGET NOT THAT YOUR HASTE CAN BE OUR VICTORY!
HAVE FAITH IN ME, JO-JO. I WILL NOT FAIL YOU OR OUR TRIBE!
IN THEIR EXCITEMENT THEY NOTICE ME NOT.
THAT NIGHT, SHIRA AND A COUPLE OF NATIVES STEAL INTO TANEE'S HUT . . .
SHHH... DO NOT AWAKEN HER, ELSE SHE WILL SCREAM AND WE WILL BE CAPTURED!
LEAD ON, O SHIRA!
SHE SHALL BE CARRIED DEEP INTO THE JUNGLE AS YOU INSTRUCTED!
HMMM...
IF YOU SCREAM, WENCH, WE WILL SLAY YOU BEFORE HELP COULD ARRIVE! YOU ARE GOING WITH MY MEN, SO REST YOUR TONGUE AND CAUSE THEM NO DELAY!
SHE HAS THE STRENGTH OF A TIGRESS!
LATER THAT NIGHT, MEDICINE MEN FROM MANY TRIBES GATHER AROUND A FIRE IN SOLEMN CONFERENCE WITH THE CONGO KING . . .
SPEAK, JO-JO!
STRANGE TO ME ARE YOUR RITES AND MEDICINE PRACTICES, MEN. BUT I KNOW YOU HAVE COMPASSION FOR YOUR TRIBES' THAT IS WHY I HAVE GATHERED YOU BEFORE MY WARRIORS!
WAR CAN BE PREVENTED BY A SIMPLE MEASURE, FOR THOUGH WE FACE A STRONG FOE, THEY ARE LED BY A MAN OF GREAT VANITY... AT HEART A COWARD! A SYMBOL FROM EACH OF YOU WOULD PUT FEAR INTO HIS HEART AND HE WOULD SOON FORGET HIS CRY OF WAR!
YOU HAVE MADE ONE GRAVE ERROR, CONGO KING! YOU HAVE NOT ASKED US WHO WE FAVOR! YOUR PLAN DISPLEASES US... FOR IT IS TINKO WE WOULD FOLLOW! HE HAS PROMISED US MUCH IF WE OVERTAKE YOUR TRIBE!
TRUE! WE ARE FOLLOWERS OF TINKO, FOOL!


HO! WE WERE PREPARED FOR THIS ATTACK!
BAH! WHAT WEAK ONES FOLLOW THE CONGO KING! HOW QUICKLY THEY ARE OVERCOME!
SURROUNDED BY TRAITORS! PERHAPS MY MEDICINE WILL BE AS EFFECTIVE AS YOURS, FRIEND OF TINKO!
BUT MY MEN WERE NOT! I HAVE BEEN A FOOL!
HALLEE!
AIEEE!
EVEN WITH YOUR WEAPONS YOU ARE NOT STRONG ENOUGH TO CAPTURE JO-JO! IF YOU WOULD LIVE, YOU HAD BEST CHANGE YOUR ALLEGIENCE! MY MEN WILL MARIAGE YOU WHILE I CLEAR THE PATH THAT WILL SOON BE DAMPENED BY YOUR BLOOD!
AAAAA!
I MUST SEEK OUT TANEE AND TELL HER TO LEAD THE OLD ONES AND THE CHILDREN AWAY FROM THE VILLAGE, ELSE THEY WILL BE SLAIN BY THE BRUTAL ONES! ALREADY THE VILLAGE IS AWAKENING FROM THE BATTLE DIN!
TANEE! SHE IS GONE. SOMEONE HAS TAKEN HER AWAY! BUT WHO WOULD TAKE OUT THEIR WRATH ON SUCH A SMALL ONE?
MY HEART TELLS ME TO SEARCH IN THE DIRECTION OF TINKO'S VILLAGE FOR MY MATE! I MUST HURRY, FOR I AM NEEDED BACK AT MY OWN KRAAL WHERE THE BATTLE STILL RAGES!
JO-JO IS IN LUCK...OR IS HE?.. FOR LYING ON THE GROUND IS A GOLD BRACELET WHICH HE KNOWS BELONGS TO TANEE...
IT IS A GOOD THING THAT I PLANTED THE BRACELET WHERE HE WOULD FIND IT! NOW JO-JO WILL FIND HIMSELF A VICTIM OF SURPRISE ONCE MORE! THIS TIME OUR PET WILL ENTERTAIN HIM!
AIEE! I AM RIGHT! SHE HAS BEEN IN THIS PLACE!
YOURS WAS AN EXCELLENT PLAN! YOU SHOULD BE WELL REWARDED FOR THINKING OF EVERY LAST DETAIL!

EVIDENTLY TINKO AND HIS SCHEMING WIFE, SHIRA, DO NOT REMEMBER THAT JO-JO RULES THE JUNGLE BEASTS AS WELL AS THE NATIVES! AND THAT I AM ESPECIALLY KEEN WITH MY BLADE WHEN IT COMES TO A BEAST WHO CAN'T SEE MORE THAN THAT WHICH HE FACES!
IT IS CRUEL THAT THE BEAST MUST DIE BECAUSE OF THE DESIRES OF TWO EVIL ONES... BUT HE HAS BECOME A MURDERER AND I AM ONLY DOING THE JUNGLE A JUSTICE BY GETTING RID OF HIM. MY BLADE SINKS DEEPLY AND HE KNOWS NOT WHAT STRIKES HIM!
HURRY, MY LORD JO-JO HAS SLAIN THE BEAST. WE ARE IN TROUBLE INDEED! IF HE CATCHES US, OUR PLANS WILL BE FINISHED AND OUR LIVES IN GREAT DANGER!
THE VINES.. CAUGHT IN MY BRACELETS! I AM TRIPPING! HELP ME!
WE CAN'T GET AWAY! IT IS YOUR FAULT! YOU AND YOUR STUPID FACE! HOW I HATE IT! OHHH...
HOW CONVENIENT IT WAS THAT THE VINES HAVE MADE YOU MY CAPTIVES! HO! VAIN TINKO DOES NOT LOOK LIKE SUCH A PRETTY SIGHT NOW AND BOTH HE AND SHIRA WILL INDEED BE SORRY WHEN THEY MEET THEIR TRIBESMEN FOR JO-JO HAS MADE A DISCOVERY. THAT THE CONCEITED TINKO WEARS THE STOLEN BRACELETS!
MY FACE... MY FACE! THE VINES ARE SCRAPING IT TO BITS.. NO. THIS CAN'T HAPPEN TO ME!
MERCY!
JO-JO... I AM SO GLAD THAT YOU LIVE! I LEAD THE MEDICINE MEN FROM ALL TRIBES BACK TO YOU! THEY WERE AMBUSHED BY TINKO'S TRIBESMEN WHO USED THEIR MASKS TO GAIN ENTRY TO VILLAGE. WE HAVE TREKKED A LONG WAY!
HERE ARE YOUR NOBLE LEADERS. TRIBESMEN, YOU SLAY NEEDLESSLY FOR THE VANESS OF TINKO... A THIEF WHO IS NOT GOOD ENOUGH TO LEAD THE WORST OF YOU!
SOMETIMES YOU HAVE TOO MUCH MERCY, JO-JO, FOR YOU HAVE LET THEM LIVE AND GIVEN THEM THEIR OWN TRIBAL LEADERS FOR JUSTICE. IT IS ONLY ONE OF THE THINGS THAT ENDEARS YOU TO ME! EVEN MORE!
IT IS THE ONLY WAY WE CAN LIVE PEACEFULLY IN THE JUNGLE TANEE!
YOU ARE WISE AS THOSE YOU LEAD, TANEE... IT IS GOOD THAT YOU HAVE GONE BACK!
IF YOU COULD FORGIVE US, WE SHALL NEED YOUR ADVICE FROM NOW ON, OH, HONORED ONE!
The End

TERROR OF THE LOST MAIDENS

REACHING A STRANGE WALLED GARDEN, THE APES PAUSE WITH THEIR VICTIMS..
OUR MISSING SISTERS... IN THIS GARDEN!
OH! NO LONGER DO THEY LIVE! THEY ARE TURNED TO BLOSSOMS!
WELCOME, FAITHFUL SERVANTS! AH! ANOTHER BATCH FOR MY GARDENS!
KEEP AWAY FROM ME, EVIL ONE! JO JO WILL PUNISH YOU FOR THIS!
ALWAYS THE SAME! THE LITTLE PRETTIES OUNCE FROM MY UGLY FACE, BUT THEY ARE POWERLESS JUST THE SAME! I COLLECT THE BEAUTIES, NO MATTER HOW THEY FEEL ABOUT ME!
YOU SEE, MY DEAR? THIS IS WHAT I WILL MAKE OUT OF YOU! A LOVELY BLOSSOM! YOU WON'T BE DEAD, OH, NO! BUT THEN AGAIN, YOU WON'T BE ALIVE EITHER!
THAT'S RIGHT, MY PETS! I'LL MAKE GARDENERS OUT OF YOU YET!
OHH! MY HEAD SPINS! CANNOT MOVE MY MUSCLES!
IT TOOK ME TWENTY YEARS TO PERFECT THIS LITTLE INVENTION! TOO BAD YOU CAN'T SPEAK, YOU LOVELY ONE, BUT AT LEAST I WILL ALWAYS HAVE YOU HERE IN MY GARDEN WHERE I CAN ENJOY YOUR BEAUTY!
HELPLESS! CAN'T EVEN CRY OUT! OHHH.
THERE! IT IS DONE! AND IF JO-JO THINKS HE CAN UNDO THIS, HE'S VERY WRONG!
I AM READY FOR A VISIT FROM THE CONGO KING ANYWAY! HE'S JUST WHAT I NEED IN MY GARDEN! ONE WEED! EVEN MY HAIRY FRIENDS WOULD ENJOY THAT JOKE! HEH-HEH-HEH!

THE FRENZY IN JO-JO'S KRAAL GREETS HIM UPON RETURNING FROM HIS HUNT..
WHAT SHALL WE DO, MY MATE?
IT IS WELL I RETURNED, TANEE! I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY THE APES SHOULD DO SUCH A THING THOUGH
WE MUST WORK FAST, JO-JO, LEST ALL OF OUR MAIDENS DISAPPEAR!
I MUST SET A TRAP, AND THOUGH I LIKE IT NOT, I MUST USE TANEE AS BAIT! SHE IS BRAVE AND WILL UNDERSTAND! IT IS THE ONLY WAY!
YOU KNOW WHAT YOU MUST DO, TANEE! I WILL BE CLOSE BY AND WILL FOLLOW YOU EVERY-WHERE! IT IS THE ONE WAY WE CAN FIGHT THIS EVIL!
ONLY FOR YOU, JO-JO!
NO! I CAN'T! I FEAR THESE HAIRY BRUTES! HELP ME, JO-JO! SAVE ME! I CANNOT PLAY MY PART!
THEY COME, TANEE! WAH! I MUST BE ALERT! I HAVE A FEELING OF DANGER... MUST BE ALERT!
IT IS NOT EASY TO DO THIS, BUT I MUST KNOW EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENS! TO KILL THESE BRUTES WOULD NOT SAVE THE OTHER MAIDENS! TANEE WILL FORGIVE ME WHEN ALL IS DONE!
TRUE ENOUGH, JO-JO HAS HEARD BUT HE DOES NOT RESPOND...
WAH! JO-JO HAS HEARD ME, YET HE DOES NOT COME! HE THINKS ONLY OF HIS PLANS WHILE HIS MATE DIES OF TERROR!

BUT SUDDENLY!..
AIEE! I DID NOT EXPET THIS! IF I SLAY THESE CATS I WILL FALL BEHIND AND LOSE TANEE'S SPOOR! BUT IF I DO NOT FIGHT, I WILL BE SLAIN!
IT IS NOT EASY TO FIGHT AND TRAVEL AT THE SAME TIME! THIS IS ONE BATTLE I MUST DESERT IF I CAN, FOR MY MATE'S LIFE IS AT STAKE!
SOON..
I HAVE BEEN LONG DELAYED, BUT FINALLY I FIND THE PLACE WHERE THE HAIRY ONES HAVE TAKEN TANEE! IF SHE IS HARMED, I WILL DEAL DEATH TO THOSE WHO DWELL WITHIN THESE WALLS!
WAH! FOR THE FIRST TIME I WELCOME THE SIGHT OF YOU, SCALY ONE!
THE NEXT TIME WE CHANCE TO MEET I WILL SPARE YOU YOUR LIFE, THOUGH THE JUNGLE KNOWS YOU NOT AS A FRIEND!
TANEE! WHAT WITCHCRAFT IS THIS? BUT A MOMENT AGO SHE BREATHED AND TALKED! NOW SHE IS A JUNGLE BLOSSOM! SUCH A THING CANNOT BE... YET IT IS!
BUT IT IS VERY TRUE! AND AS TANEE IS A CHARMING BLOSSOM IN MY GARDEN, SO SHALL YOU BE A WEED IN A FEW MOMENTS! SEIZE HIM, MY PETS!
A TWISTED TONGUE SPEAKS WITH AN EVIL BRAIN, AND BEFORE I DIE, I WILL TEACH HIM RIGHT FROM WRONG! I CHALLENGE YOU ALL!

WITHOUT MY MATE TO LIVE BY MY SIDE, I CARE NOT FOR MY OWN LIFE AND I DETEST YOURS, UGLY LAWBREAKERS!
KILL HIM, MY FRIENDS! I'VE CHANGED MY MIND! I DON'T EVEN WANT THE WEED! HE IS YOURS! SLAY HIM!
YOUR PLANS FAIL, TWISTED ONE! JO-JO IS THE VICTOR AND IT IS MY JUDGMENT THAT YOU JOIN YOUR HAIRY FRIENDS IN DEATH!
NO! I PLOTTED THIS SO CAREFULLY!
ONLY ONE APE LEFT! AND A WOUNDED ONE AT THAT!
STOP YOU FOOL! IT'S ME! YOUR MASTER! STOP! YOU'RE CHOKING ME!
THE APE IS CRAZED FROM HIS WOUNDS! HE SLAYS HIS OWN MASTER!
BUT WHAT GOOD HAS IT DONE TO BESTOW DEATH ON THE WICKED MASTER AND HIS SERVANTS? STILL MY TANEE IS A HUSHED BLOSSOM! I AM WORSE THAN A FAILURE, FOR IT WAS MY DARING PLAN THAT BROUGHT THIS TRAGEDY ABOUT! OH, WHAT CAN I DO TO RELEASE YOU, FAIR ONE?
EVEN THE HEAVENS SEEMED TO JOIN JO-JO IN MOURNING...
WAH! THE JUNGLE GODS SEEK TO STRIKE ME WITH SKY FIRE, AND THE WEEPING CLOUDS POUR HEAVILY OVER THE MAIDENS!
JO-JO! DO NOT LET ME FALL! MY FEET... STILL NUMB.
TANEE! A SKY MIRACLE! NEVER DID I EXPECT TO HEAR YOUR VOICE AGAIN!
AND IN THE POUNDING RAIN THERE IS A HAPPY REUNION...
LET US HASTEN TO OUR KRAAL!
I DO NOT UNDERSTAND THIS THING, BUT I AM FOREVER GRATEFUL!
HE DID NOT KNOW THAT IN THIS COUNTRY OF MUCH SUN, RAIN ALSO COMES!
The End

THE "Lone Wolf" OF FEAR

AT THE AGE OF TWENTY-FOUR ... LEONARD SCARNICI MADE HIS DEBUT IN NEW YORK ... ACCOMPANIED BY AN ESCORT ....

WELL ... THANKS FOR THE FREE RIDE !! I WANTED TO COME TO NEW YORK, ANYWAY !!

THE PLEASURE WAS ALL SPR.NGF.ELD'S ... SCARNICI !! AFTER THE STUFF YOU PULLED THE ONLY THING TO DO WAS TO GET OUT OF TOWN !!!

OH ... YES ... SCARNICI ... HERE'S A TEN SPOT TO GET YOU GOING ! THE CITIZENS OF SPRINGFIELD THOUGHT THE PRICE WAS CHEAP !!! AND DON'T COME BACK !!!

DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT ... I DON'T GO WHERE I AIN'T WELCOME !!

CHICAGO ALBE... QE LOS A... ES

ON HIS FIRST NIGHT IN N.Y. LEONARD SCARNICI DRIFTED DOWN TO A WATERFRONT STREET ....

IF I ONLY HAD A GAT ... I COULD HOLD THIS GUY UP ... IT'S DARK ENOUGH DOWN HERE ... NOBODY WOULD BE THE WISER / MAYBE THAT PIECE OF WOOD ON THE SIDEWALK ...

O.K. ... BUDDY ... GET YER HANDS UP IN THE AIR ! GRAB THE NIGHT CEILING !! I WANT YER ROLL ... OR ELSE I'LL BLOW A TUNNEL INTO YER BODY !

GO EASY WITH THAT ROSCOE ... FELLA !! MIGHT GO OFF !

ALL RIGHT ... WISE GUY ... I'M GONNA TWIST THAT ARM RIGHT OUT OF IT'S SOCKET !! SAY, THAT'S A LAUGH ... HOLDING UP TOUGH JOE LAPHAM ... WITH A HUNK OF WOOD !

AW ... ALL I WAS TRYING TO DO ... WAS PICK UP A COUPLA BUCKS ... HEY !! THAT HURT !!!

TAKE IT EASY ... YA GOT MOXIE ... I CAN SEE THAT ... TRYING TO HOLD ME UP WITH A HUNK OF WOOD ! MAYBE I CAN FIX YA UP. GO DOWN TO CARNEY'S POOL HALL ... IT'S JUST ...

... TWO BLOCKS DOWN THAT WAY ... YA CAN'T MISS IT !! TELL CARNEY THAT TOUGH JOE LAPHAM SENT YA DOWN ... HE'LL TAKE CARE OF YA ... PUT YA ON TO SOMETHING !!!

THANKS ... JOE ... MAYBE I CAN DO THE SAME FOR YA SOMEDAY ...

A FEW MINUTES LATER ...

TOUGH JOE LAPHAM SENT ME DOWN TO SEE YA ... CARNEY ... SEE YA MIGHT BE ABLE TO PUT ME IN THE WAY OF PICKING UP A COUPLA BUCKS !!

HOLD IT UP ... HOLD IT UP !! I'M MAKING A SHOT !!!

Louis Frost 112

LATER... IN CARNEY'S PRIVATE OFFICE..

I'M A BOOKIE.. SCARNEY, AND RUN THIS POOL HALL ON THE SIDE! I'M A MEMBER OF A BIG SYNDICATE... AND I CAN USE A LEG MAN... FOR KEEPING IN CONTACT WITH THE REST OF THE BOYS!!

I'LL DO ANYTHING... CARNEY!!! ANYTHING!!

ONE NIGHT... SHORTLY AFTER..

ONE OF THE BOOKIES... OF THE SYNDICATE... GUY BY THE NAME OF BEGHORN WAS HIT... HAS TO PAY OFF AND NEEDS THIS DOUGH! TAKE IT TO HIM... DON'T GET ANY IDEAS ABOUT GETTING LOST ON THE WAY!

I'LL BE BACK!!

LATER.. AT BEGHORN'S..

HERE'S THE MONEY THAT CARNEY SENT OVER!! BROTHER... WHAT A SET UP YA GOT HERE!!!

YEAH... YEAH... GRUB YERSELF A DRINK ON THE HOUSE.. AND THEN TAKE OFF!! THIS IS A HIGH-CLASS JOINT!!

A FEW MINUTES AFTER SCARNEY LEFT BEGHORN'S.

WHAT A JOINT THAT WAS... THE GAMBLING SYNDICATE'S IN SOLID ALL OVER TOWN.. IF I COULD ONLY GET MY HANDS ON SOME DOUGH.. SAY!! THAT GUY'S STEWED TO THE GILLS... MAYBE!!

HIC! HELLO THERE FRIEND... COME TO JOIN THE FUN? AIN'T SEEN YA IN YEARS... HIC!... I AINT-

SURE.. I'M AN OLD FRIEND OF YERS.. COME UP THIS ALLEY.. AND WE.. RENEW ACQUAINTANCY.. BUT GOOD!!

HIC! PUT IT THERE... BUDDY... MITT ME. GIVE ME YER... AIEEE!

I'LL MITT YA ALL RIGHT! NOW GIVE ME YER ROLL OF DOUGH ... OR DO I HAVE TA WORK YA OVER FOR THE CASH!! I AINT TAKING ANY BACK TALK!!!

MUSH BE SOMETHING WRONG.. FELLA... I'M A BUDDY... FROM WAY BACK... AGGGHHH!!

YERH... YER A BUDDY... ALL RIGHT! WHEN YER OUT COLD... AND I CAN GO THROUGH YER POCKETS .. AND CLEAN YA OUT!!! I WANT CASH!!!

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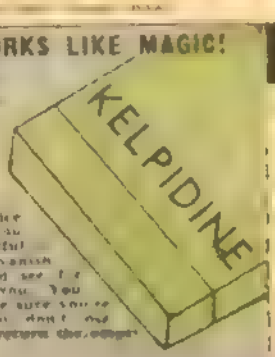

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MONCHALANTLY... SCARNICI RETURNED TO CARNEY'S POOL HALL...
WHAT TOOK YA SO LONG, SCARNICI? I WAS BEGINNING TO WORRY ABOUT YER HEALTH! THAT'S FRANKIE BOWSON... WHY DON'T THE TWO OF YA PLAY A GAME... AND LEAVE ME ALONE!
COME ON... FRANKIE ...LET'S RACK 'EM UP!!!
IT'LL HAVE TO BE A QUICK ONE... SCARNICI ...I GOTTA MAKE A PICK-UP FOR MY BOSS TONIGHT!! MAYBE YA'D LIKE TO COME ALONG FOR THE RIDE GO OUT TO A ROADHOUSE!!!
SURE... SURE ...I COULD STAND A BREAK!!!
TEN MINUTES LATER...
AT THE ROADHOUSE...
CARNEY WAS TELLING ME... YER HIS LEG MAN! ALMOST LIKE MY JOB.. I'M A SORT OF CHAUFFEUR... AND HANDYMAN FOR THE BOSS... HE'S A BOOT LEGGER! GOTTA PICK UP SIX HUNDRED BUCKS FOR HIM TONIGHT, AT THIS ROADHOUSE!
I'LL GO INSIDE, SCARNICI... PICK UP THE DOUGH FROM THE CUSTOMER! ONLY BE A COUPLA MINUTES!!
YEAH... I'LL GET A BREATH OF FRESH AIR MEANWHILE
SIX HUNDRED BUCKS... MY NIGHT FOR CASH
"TOM'S FOR FUN!"
FRANKIE TRUSTS TOO MANY PEOPLE!! A LITTLE WORK WITH THE JACK KNIFE ON TH' VALVE... AND WE'RE GONNA HAVE A SLOW LEAK ON THE WAY BACK! HE... HAVTA FIX IT. I WANT THAT DOUGH!!!
THAT WAS QUICK... SCARNICI!! COME ON... LET'S HEAD BACK TO NEW YORK! I GET THE CREEPS OUT HERE IN THE COUNTRY!
SO... YA GOT THE MONEY WITHOUT ANY TROUBLE... HUH... THAT'S PRETTY GOOD!!!
FIVE MINUTES LATER...
YA FEEL THAT! WE GOT A FLAT... AND I DON'T KNOW HOW. AIN'T THAT ROTTEN LUCK!! THE CAR SURE BOUNCES AROUND ON THESE ROADS WE'RE GONNA HAVTA STOP AND FIX IT!!!
YEAH... YEAH, WE CAN'T CONTINUE THIS WAY!!!
4

HERE, SCARNICI... I'LL OPEN YER DOOR! YA WANNA FIX THAT TIRE... PUT ON THE [redacted]! I'D DO IT... BUT I GOTTA BAD BACK!!
DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT THIS STUFF... FRANKIE... I'LL HELP YOU!!!
GROAN... MY BACK'S REALLY BEGINNING TO GET SHOOTING PAINS!! I SHOULDN'T BE DOING THIS... YA WANNA HAND ME THAT WRENCH... SCARNICI!!!
YEAH SURE... FRANKIE... I'LL GIVE YA THE WRENCH!
C'MON... SNAP IT UP... I DON'T WANNA STAY OUT HERE ALL NIGHT NO... DON'T, YA DIRTY RAT... AIEEEE!!
I CAN USE THAT SIX HUNDRED BUCKS... FRANKIE! YER PAYING FOR MY READY CASH! AHHH... THAT'LL SHUT YA UP PERMANENTLY
HE DIDN'T GET CASH... WHY, THE STUPID RAT... HE TOOK A CHECK FOR SIX HUNDRED BUCKS... IT'S ONLY PAPER TO ME... I CAN'T USE IT! I CAN'T TAKE A CHANCE ON THE COPS TRACING A FORGED CHECK TO ME!!!
THE STUPID DIRTY RAT... FRANKIE BOWSON... PULLING ONE ON ME LIKE THIS... HERE I WAS THINKING I WAS LONE WOLFING IT INTO SIX HUNDRED IRON MEN!! I'LL DUMP YER BODY IN THIS HOLE HERE ...AND COVER IT WITH DIRT!!!
WHAT A BRAIN I GOT... I ALMOST FORGOT TO TIE ON TO HIS ROD!! I MAY NEED THAT YET... IT'LL HELP ME TO PICK UP SOME CASH!! MAYBE I CAN RIDE THE CAR BACK... SELL IT TO SOME SECOND HAND DEALER!
WELL... MY LUCK AIN'T BEEN TOO HOT TONIGHT, ROLLED ONE DRUNK... AND THEN LOST SIX HUNDRED BUCKS WHEN I FOOLED MYSELF! GOTTA GET THAT CAR ROLLING ...AND BUILD MY BANKROLL!!

I GOTTA GET DOUGH!! EVEN IF I HAVE TO PUSH FRANK FIS GAT RIGHT THROUGH SOMEBODY... I'M GONNA GET CASH!! THAT OUTDOOR MOVIE THEATRE... WONDER IF I COULD FIND ME A LOADED SUCKER THERE!
I'LL PARK THE CAR HERE... IN THESE TREES... AND LEAVE THE MOTOR RUNNING... JUST IN CASE I GOTTA TAKE OFF IN A HURRY... AND THEN BACK ACROSS THE ROAD TO THAT OUTDOOR THEATRE... TO SEE WHAT I CAN DO!!!
A FEW MINUTES LATER...
PICTURE'S PRETTY GOOD TONIGHT... ISN'T IT, JOE?
IF I CAN JUST COME UP ON THEM... BEFORE THEY SEE ME... I CAN PULL IT OFF! JUST SO I GET TO THEM BEFORE THEY GET A CHANCE TO YELL!!!
HEY... WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO PULL OFF?!!
JOE... I'M SCARED... DON'T LET HIM DO ANYTHING!!!
SHADDUP, BOTH OF YA I WANT YER CASH... BUDDY... AND QUICK!!!
I DON'T HAVE ANY DOUGH TO GIVE YOU! I'M BROKE!!
ALL RIGHT... WISE GUY... WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT! YA DON'T WANT TO FORK OVER! GET THIS CAR GOING... DRIVE ACROSS THE STREET... AND UP THE ROAD IN THE TREES!!!
TENSE MINUTES LATER...
YOU'RE WELCOME TO GO THROUGH MY POCKETS... MISTER... BUT I'M TELLING THE TRUTH!!!
WHY WON'T YOU LET US GO?!
SEE? I WASN'T LYING... I'M FLAT BROKE... I HAD JUST ENOUGH MONEY FOR GAS... AND FOR THE MOVIE!
YA ROTTEN PUNK... I OUGHTA BLAST YA!! JUST FOR COMING OUT HERE WITH OUT A RED CENT TO YER NAME!!
FOR TWO CENTS... DRAG MONEY... I'D PUSH THIS GUN AGAINST YER NOSE AND PULL THE TRIGGER!! LET GO!!
HURRY, BETTY... GET THE MOTOR GOING AND DRIVE FOR HELP TO THE NEAREST POLICE STATION!!!
6

UGH.. I'M GOING TO BLAST YER HEAD OFF... JUST AS SOON AS I .. UGH... THERE !!! THAT DOES IT... NOW I'M PAYING OFF IN HOT LEAD. YOU ASKED FOR IT !!!
GET OUT OF HERE .. BETTY... SAVE YOURSELF AT LEAST . AGGGHHH !!!
STOP YER WHINING... YA DIRTY RAT !! YOU ASKED FOR A HELPING OF HOT LEAD... AND YA GOT IT !!! THE GIRL ...SHE'S GOTTEN AWAY !!!
DON'T... DON'T DO IT... DON'T KILL ME... I WANT TO LIVE ... JUST BE-CAUSE I DIDN'T HAVE ANY... AIIEEEE !!!!
SECONDS LATER... SCARNICI SPED AWAY FROM HIS SECOND MURDER OF THE NIGHT...
ON THE MONEY HE HAD GOTTEN FROM THE DRUNK ... SCARNICI PAID A VISIT TO BEGHORN'S BAR...
WHAT'S THE TROUBLE ...MR. BEGHORN ... YA LOOK WORRIED !
THESE GANG WARS ... SCARNICI... GIVE ME A LOT OF TROUBLE ... HEY, JOE... FILL IT UP... IT'S ON THE HOUSE ! THE WARS ARE RUINING MY BUSINESS !!!
THEY CAN'T CONNECT ME WITH FRANKIE'S DEATH... NOBODY KNEW THAT I WAS WITH HIM, AND THEY'LL NEVER FIND HIS BODY !!! THAT'S TAKING CARE OF CARNEY AND THE BOYS .. BUT IT DOESN'T RAISE ANY CASH FOR ME.....
HELLO... KID ! I DIDN'T SEE YOU ... LAST TIME I WAS IN HERE ! HOW ABOUT SEEING YOU AGAIN — AFTER YER OFF TONIGHT ?
SURE ... MR. SCARNICI !! AND I WANT YOU TO KNOW I SAW YOU WHEN YOU WERE HERE !!
LATER THAT EVENING...
SCARNICI TOOK THE HINT... AND SAW BEGHORN...
MYRNA - WE'RE GONNA SEE A LOT OF EACH OTHER ! ALL I NEED IS SOME CASH — AND THIS MIGHT BECOME A PERMANENT DUET !!!
I KNOW HOW YOU CAN GET PLENTY OF CASH !! BEGHORN WOULD PAY BIG DOUGH... TO GET RID OF THE BOYS WARRING ON HIM NOW !
SEE THAT... SCARNICI... I'M CUTTING FIVE THOUSAND BUCKS IN HALF... AND I'M GONNA GIVE YOU HALF !! YOU'LL GET THE OTHER HALF WHEN YOU RUB OUT BLINKEY DICE AND SKIP E. ORFY !!! YOU CAN TAIL THEM OUTTA HERE - THEY'RE AT THE...
MENU
SPAGHETTI
SPECIALS

...BOE NOW—SLOPPING UP MY LIQUOR!?! THEY CAME IN TO SHOOT ME DOWN!!!
WHEN THEY LEAVE, I'LL SHADOW THEIR CAR. STICK TO IT... UNTIL I CATCH UP WITH THEM IN AN ISOLATED SPOT... AND THEN... BOOOMM!!
TEN MINUTES LATER BINKY DICE AND SKID FLOREY LEFT BEGHORN'S BAR... BUT NOT ALONE...
JUST ONE MORE STOP AT THE FLEA BITTEN JOINT ON THE EDGE OF TOWN!
YEAH... DON'T THINK I WON'T BE GLAD TO GET FINISHED! THEY ALL WANT TO KNOCK US OFF!!
S. BEGHORN'S HORSE SHOE BAR
UNLESS I'M MISTAKEN... BINKY... WE'RE BEING TAILED! THAT CAR BEHIND US HAS STUCK LIKE GLUE FOR THE LAST FIFTEEN MINUTES!!!
YEAH... WHAT I WAS THINKING! FINE TIME TO BE CAUGHT WITHOUT OUR ROD!
COME ON... GET THAT CAR OVER TO THE SIDE OF THE ROAD... AND STOP IT!! I BEEN TAILING YOU GUYS FOR THE LAST TWENTY MINUTES!!
MIGHT AS WELL STOP... WE'RE IN FOR IT NOW... BINKY!!!
WHEW! IT'S LEONARD SCRINGI... ONE OF CARNEY'S BOYS! WHAT A RELIEF! I THOUGHT YOU WERE SOME TORPEDO ON OUR TRAIL TO RUB US OUT!!!
HOW FUNNY... BINKY... BUT YA AIN'T FAR WRONG! TURN AROUND AND WALK THIRTEEN STEPS AWAY FROM ME!!!
DON'T DO IT... SCARNGI... WE CAN BUY OFF... GIVE YA PLENTY OF CASH... E AIN'T... NINE STEPS...
TEN... ELEVEN... TWELVE... MY LIFE WOULDN'T BE WORTH A PLUGGED NICKEL WITH YOU TWO ALIVE... YOU'D GET ME SOONER OR LATER... THIRTEEN!!! TURN AROUND!!!
SCARNGI... COLLECTED ON THE FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS... AND THEN...
YA KNOW MYRNA... NOW THAT I GOT SOME CASH... THANKS TO YOU... AND GOT THE TASTE OF IT... I'M OUT FOR THE BIG DOUGH!! I'M TIRED OF LONE WOLFING IT... I'M GONNA FORM A GANG OF MY OWN!!!

SCARNICI WASTED NO TIME FORMING HIS GANG....

THERE'S BIG MONEY IN BEING ORGANIZED ...THAT'S WHY WE'RE FORMING THIS GANG ...WITH ME AS LEADER !!!

THAT ROCKY'S GOT A BEAUTIFUL WIFE ...MAYBE I COULD DITCH MYRNA...CUT ROCKY OUT... AND...

BUT... I DON'T GET IT... SCARNICI ... WHAT YA GOT AGAINST ME... WHAT DID I DO ...DON'T SHOOT ...RGGGHHH?

NOTHING AGAINST YA PERSONALLY, ROCKY ...I LIKE YER WIFE? YER NOT GOIN' TO STAND IN MY WAY !!!

NICE OUR GETTING TOGETHER RIGHT AFTER YER HUSBAND HAD THAT ACCIDENT !! ME AND THE BOYS IS GONNA CRACK A BANK IN RENSSALAER IN NEW YORK ...THEN WE'LL HAVE FUN !!

LEAVING ME FOR HER... HE'LL PAY FOR THAT !!

LIKE WISH WAS FATHER TO THE DEED...AND ONE NIGHT...

SCARNICI COULD NOT FORESEE ...THAT HE HAD SEALED HIS FATE ...

IN THE SPRING... SCARNICI'S GANG PULLED OFF THEIR BANK HOLD-UP IN RENSSALAER, NEW YORK...

HERE... YOU GUYS... I'VE FOUND THE READY CASH... I'LL PICK UP ALL OF IT I CAN FIND !! JUST KEEP THEM HICKS COVERED ...AND BLAST THEM IF THEY TRY SOMETHING !!!

COME ON... YA WHITE LIVERED CLERK ...START SPINNING THOSE KNOBS ...I WANT THE CASH IN THAT SAFE !!! IT'S YER SKIN... OR THAT SAFE DOOR COMES OPEN !!! I'LL BLAST EVERYBODY IN HERE... IF YA DON'T MOVE FAST !!!

YER PRETTY TOUGH FELLA... BUT I'M NOT GOING TO OPEN THAT SAFE FOR YOU ! I WILL TURN THE ALARM... THOUGH... NO? NO? RAGGHHH?

LOOKS LIKE YOU THOUGHT THE MONEY IN THAT SAFE WAS WORTH YOUR LIFE !! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE !!

SCARNICI RACED BACK TO N.Y. HUNTED FOR THE BRUTAL MURDER OF THE TELLER... SCARNICI'S LUCK HAD RUN OUT...

I'LL FIX SCARNICI FOR DITCHING ME FOR THAT BLONDE HUSSY... IF IT'S THE LAST THING I DO...

LISTEN... YOU COPS... SCARNICI... THE MURDERER IS WAITING FOR A BLONDE IN GOMPER'S DELICATESSEN IN THE BRONX... THEY'RE PLANNING A GETAWAY !!!

IN A MATTER OF MINUTES... THE EFFICIENT NEW YORK POLICE HAD SWUNG INTO ACTION...

DON'T MOVE... ANYBODY... THERE MAY BE SOME SHOOTING HERE !! SCARNICI... DROP THAT GUN... YOU'RE CORNERED !!!

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO GET ME !!!

ALL RIGHT... DON'T SHOOT... I GIVE UP... THERE'S MY GUN !!! I GIVE UP... I DON'T WANT TO DIE !

LEONARD SCARNICI... THE "LONE WOLF" KILLER WENT TO THE ELECTRIC CHAIR... TO PAY FOR HIS VICIOUS MURDERS... UNWITTINGLY THE VICTIM OF HIS OWN TREACHERY !!!

The End

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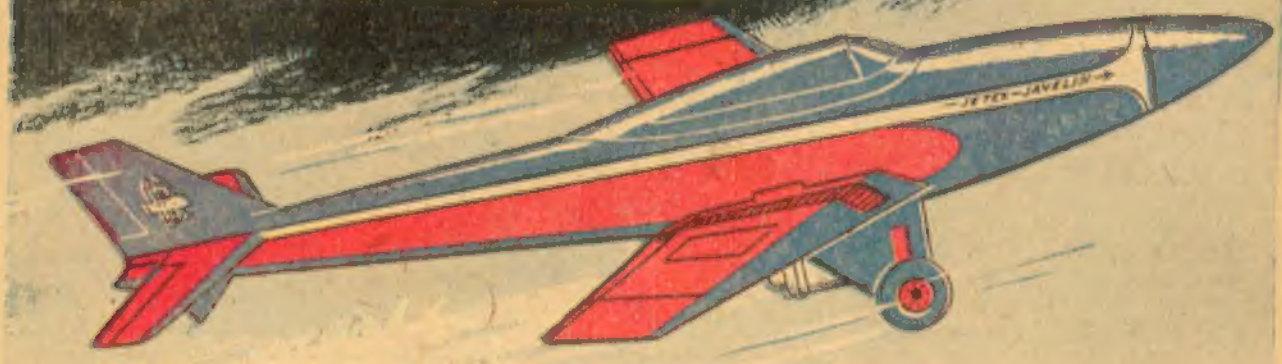

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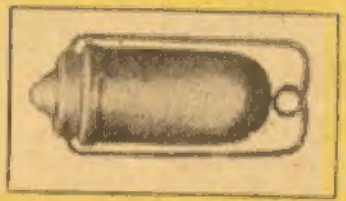

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